

Appn Number: 10/010,132

Docket Number: MS-01CXT0161M

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 5-9 and 11-18 remain pending in the present patent application. Claims 1-4, 10, and 19 have been canceled, and claims 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims in view of the following remarks.

In item 1 of the Office Action, claims 1-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. US 2002/0172195 issued to Pekkala (hereinafter "Pekkala"). Anticipation under §102 "requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under construction. W.L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 220 USPQ 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). Applicant notes that claims 1-4, 10, and 19 have been canceled herein, thereby rendering this ground of rejection moot with respect to such claims. For the reasons that follow Applicants request that the rejection of the remaining be withdrawn.

To begin, claim 5 in its current form states as follows:

5. A computer system, comprising:

a plurality of point-to-point interface units comprising a computer module interface and a point-to-point interface;

a plurality of computer modules connected to the computer module interface of the plurality of point-to-point interface units; and

at least one bus emulator connected to the point-to-point interface of the plurality of point-to-point interface units, wherein the at least one bus emulator is capable of supporting only one transfer at a time, the at least one bus emulator having a cascade port providing an ability to couple a plurality of bus emulators in a daisy chain to increase a fan-out of the at least one bus emulator, thereby increasing a signal length accommodated by the at least one bus emulator.

In reference to previously presented claim 10, in item 1, the Office Action states:

"Regarding claim 10, Pekkala also discloses a cascade port that connects to the internal bus and can be used to extend the length of the internal bus (e.g., paragraph 10)."

Applicants have amended independent claim 5 to include the element of "the at least one bus emulator having a cascade port providing an ability to couple a plurality of bus emulators in a daisy chain to increase a fan-out of the at least one bus emulator, thereby increasing a signal length accommodated by the at least one bus emulator", thereby incorporating at least some of the substance of claim 10, now canceled.

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Applicants assert that independent claim 5 is allowable for at least the reason that *Pekkala* fails to disclose, show or suggest "a bus emulator having a cascade port." Furthermore, *Pekkala* does not teach a cascade port "providing an ability to couple a plurality of bus emulators in a daisy chain to increase a fan-out of the at least one bus emulator, thereby increasing a signal length accommodated by the at least one bus emulator."

For example, in paragraph 10, cited in the present rejection, *Pekkala* discloses "switches" that "include multiple...ports for connecting to multiple...adapters." In this respect, *Pekkala* teaches a switch that directs packets to the proper destination adapter on a subnet. However, the reference fails to teach a "cascade port providing the ability...to increase the fan-out" of the system as claimed. *Pekkala* does not teach at least the claimed limitation of a cascade port that enables at least one bus emulator to increase the fan-out of the computer system, thereby increasing a signal length accommodated by the at least one bus emulator.

The "multiple IB channel adapters" or "downstream" switch disclosed by *Pekkala* do not teach or suggest the ability to increase the fan-out or signal length that the entire system can handle.

Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 6-9 be withdrawn as depending from claim 5.

Applicant also asserts that independent claims 11, 14 and 17 are allowable for at least the same reasons stated above in reference to independent claim 5 above. Accordingly, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 11, 14 and 17 be withdrawn. In addition, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 12, 13, 15, 16 and 18 be withdrawn as depending from claims 11, 14, or 17.

In addition, it is noted that various ones of the claims are additionally amended herein to provide for antecedent basis and to make various grammatical corrections as noted.

As identified above, claims 1-4, 10, 19 have been canceled without prejudice, waiver or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed.

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In light of the foregoing amendments, additions and remarks and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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